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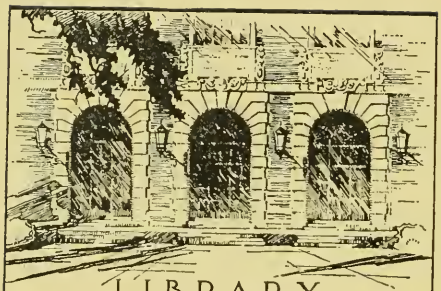
MEMORIAL OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERRY MINE DISASTER...

(1959)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MEMORIAL

of the

Fiftieth Anniversary

of the

CHERRY MINE DISASTER

1909 - November 13 - 1959

Papers and photos, etc. of the miners are in the Holy Trinity Church in Cherry.

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Lord God of Hosts, we dedicate this little booklet to the memory of those who gave their lives in the holocaust of a half century ago, asking You to look benignly upon their descendents and particularly upon all those who today honor their memory. May we all ask of Thee the blessings of peace and contentment and the enlightment that will forever ensure that these men have not given their lives in vain. May their memory, forever kept fresh, inspire us to keep our trust in Thee every moment of our lives in order to join these for eternity in praising Thy name. Amen.

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Preface

The following story is written as a commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Cherry Mine Disaster. To the victims and to their families this booklet is humbly and respectfully dedicated.

The Cherry Mine Disaster

"Fate had written one day, the day of days, in her ledger of the town of Cherry. That day was the thirteenth of November, 1909."

The village of Cherry lies in eastern Bureau County about eleven miles north of the LaSalle-Peru area and approximately one hundred miles southwest of Chicago. In 1905, when a party of mining experts and laborers arrived in that part of Illinois to sink a coal shaft upon the prairie, they little realized that four years hence this mine would become the scene of one of the greatest mine disasters of all time. Officially, 259 men were to lay down their lives in the fiery inferno which probably could have been prevented by a little more precaution on the part of the men who were near the scene of of the fire when it began. Be that as it may, it does not alter the fact that death took no holiday in Cherry on November 13, 1909.

The new mine was owned and operated by the St. Paul Coal Company, which had been authorized to mine coal in Putnam, LaSalle, Bureau, Grundy, Marshall, and Stark counties in Illinois. After the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company built a spur track to Cherry from Ladd, a mining town three miles away, the new village began to develop. Miners flocked in from every section of the state. One hundred and twenty-five houses were erected by the Coal Company for its employees. In addition, two hundred privately owned homes, several business houses, and a school were constructed. The town has been described as being drab will all its overtones of black or dirty gray. The houses, made of wood, were seldom painted, and their simple architectural design bordered on the monotonous. The school, however, and most of the business houses were brick builings. Cinder paths, which were the village walks, converged on the colliery at the north end of town.

The villagers were young and vigorous; many of them were immigrants with little or no knowledge of the English language. The nationalities represented constituted a veritable league of nations. Italians and Slovenians were most numerous, but the population included as well many Americans, Germans, Austrians, Greeks, French, Belgians, English, Irish, Scotch, and Welsh. The thriving little town of 2500 people had 17 saloons, each of which paid an annual license fee of $500. Many laborers spent their money as fast as they earned it and in a manner which in no way contributed to attractive homes and community progress. A visitor might have concluded that the town had been built on a temporary basis, but, in reality, it did not differ greatly from the average small mining town of Central Illinois.

The little mining town of Cherry was situated in the heart of the rich coal regions of Central Illinois.

The village of Cherry depended for its support, for its very existence, on the mine, which came to have a good reputation among miners. The mine was dry and well equipped, the coal was easily mined, and there were few "shut-downs". All of the coal produced was taken by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad for use in its own engines, and as the engines were busy all the year around, the mine was not subject to the seasonal rush times and dull times which usually characterized coal mining operations. The Cherry mine was, in short, one of the best, and its management was liberal and considerate. Warren R. Roberts, consulting engineer and contractor who constructed the mine tipple, called it the "safest mine in the world". In reality, it was not the physical plant that was responsible for the disaster, but the questionable actions of human beings.

Shortly after the Cherry mine was sunk, the coal in the first vein was found to be of no commercial value; therefore, the company sank the main shaft and the escape shaft to the second vein. In 1908 the company opened the third vein which was about 485 feet below the surface and approximately 165 feet below the second vein. It was the third vein which, undamaged by the fire, was mined by the company when it resumed operations after the disaster. The coal in the third vein was not so easily reached as that in the second vein, but it was of better quality.

In 1909 the Cherry mine was operating 7217 acres of land, 360 acres of which had been worked out. About 300,000 tons of coal were being mined

annually under the direction of the following men: W. W. Taylor, general manager and superintendent; H. C. Maxwell, mine examiner; James Steele, mine superintendent; John Bundy, mine manager; Alex Norberg, pit boss; John Crowley, engineer, main shaft; John Raisbeck, engineer, escape shaft; George Eddy, mine examiner or fire boss. The third level was still relatively new, and there was no way to ascend directly from the third vein to the second. A small cage under construction was to be attached to the main cage, but work on this detail had not been completed. Meanwhile, coal from the third level was being hoisted to the second level via the escape shaft and then transported to the main shaft to be hoisted to the surface. Wooden ladders and steps provided the only exit—and the only means of escape—for those men working in the third vein.

Between 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 13, 1909, 484 men entered the mine. Cage runs at mid-forenoon, at noon, and at one-thirty in the afternoon brought to the surface miners who had discontinued work at those hours. On that particular Saturday, a number of men had quit work in time to catch the 1:30 cage; they were fortunate, for within a matter of hours, 259 of their fellow workers were to have lost their lives in the Cherry Mine Disaster.

Between twelve and one o'clock on that fatal day, six bales of hay had been placed in a coal car which was left at the escape-shaft entrance to the third vein in order that the hay might be taken down to the mule stables on the third level. Directly above the pit car was a blazing, open, kerosene torch so placed as to provide light for the cagers, two men and a boy. Ironically enough, there should have been no need for torches.

The sudden news of Cherry's misfortune brought swarms of people to the vicinity as well as the urgent need for food and supplies from adjacent towns.

The bottom of the mine had been wired for electric lights, but a short circuit had put them out of commission. According to testimony given at the inquest following the disaster, about three weeks had elapsed and the faulty wiring had not been repaired. Suddenly the hay was on fire; perhaps burning oil dripping from the torch had ignited it. Whatever the cause, the car containing the burning hay was shoved and pushed into the third-vein shaft opening from where it fell into the "slump" at the bottom and was quickly extinguished, but not until the overhead timbers of pine had been thoroughly ignited. Not realizing the danger of the situation, Alex Rosenjack and Robert Dean, cagers at the main and air shafts respectively, continued to hoist coal for several minutes after they knew the fire was in existence. Evidently the men believed that it would be put out easily. When the serious nature of the fire became apparent, several of the drivers and company men endeavored to warn the diggers, but the fire had burned for at least forty-five minutes before any such information was systematically given. Heat and smoke prevented the men from getting into the mule barns to attach a hose which had been sent down from the surface; an attempt to attach the hose to a nozzle or piece of water pipe near the main cage was no more successful because the pipe was too small, the water was hot, and the hose could not be held around or against the opening of the pipe.

Sunday morning crowds, comprising men, women and children who were present at the focal point of the disaster being enacted, came with the varied motives of curiosity, anxiety, hope and fear.

The fire spread quickly, and from then on, Rosenjack, Bundy, and Alex Norberg tried to save as many miners as possible. Many men were so fortunate as to reach the main cage from the side opposite the fire before the smoke and heat prevented that mode of escape. Others reached safety via the air shaft until that, too, was blocked.

Fire departments from the neighboring towns and Chicago fought desperately to quell the raging flames in the main shaft.

Norberg, the boss, gave the order to stop the huge ventilating fan to prevent the spreading of the flames, but this measure reacted unfavorably on the miners, in that it reduced their supply of oxygen. Then the order was given to reverse the fan and thus draw the fire away from the main shaft, but that action was to no avail because the heat reached the fan and fan house and slowly consumed them, cutting off all escape from that shaft.

Meanwhile, men were dying. Cries and shrieks rang through the darkened mine corridors; futile cries for help and cries for mercy——curses and prayers——added to the general chaos as men fought desperately for survival. Death had a field day.

But there were heroes——twelve heroes——whose story will rival any saga of heroism in the world. Rosenjack had come to the surface and had asked for volunteers to descend the main shaft to help in the rescue attempts. The following men volunteered: John Bundy, mine manager; Andrew McLuckie, miner; Harry Stewart, miner; James Spiers, miner; Mike Suhe, miner; Robert Clark, miner; Alex Norberg, assistant mine manager; Isaac Lewis, liveryman; Dominic Formento, grocer; John Flood, clothier; John Sczabrinski, cager; Joseph Robesa, driver. These volunteers went down six times and brought up men who otherwise would probably never have seen daylight again. Dr. Howe and Rosenjack, also members of the rescue party, were overcome after they had gone into the mine several times; therefore they escaped the tragedy which befell the twelve volunteers on their seventh descent for rescue purposes. John Cowley, the engineer, had been given

specific instructions by Norberg to obey the cage signals precisely and not to act until the proper signal was given. Under no circumstances was Cowley to deviate from these instructions. The cage descended with the doomed men, and after a short interval, Cowley received a series of mixed-up signals. He was at a loss as to what to do, but remembering Norberg's instructions, he refused to bring the cage to the surface until the proper signal was given. People around him sensed that something was radically wrong

915
Top of Wrecked Air Shaft
Showing Group of Officials
and Helmet Men at the Cherry Mine
Where 900 Men were Entombed Nov 13-'09

The professional helmet men are shown above testing their oxygen masks before descending the burning shaft in a futile attempt to rescue the victims.

and pleaded with Cowley to raise the cage. He continually refused to do so until compelled by threats of bodily harm. As the cage reached the surface, a pathetic sight unfolded. The rescuers had been lowered right into the flames and had been roasted alive. Their clothing was still smouldering! Four bodies lay across the top of the cage, evidence that the men had died in a frantic attempt to climb away from the fire.

At the coroner's inquest, many of the survivors told heart-rending stories. The imagination of the reader is taxed to the limit by tales of futile attempts to escape, of suffering and death—the experiences of men trapped in a living hell several hundred feet below the surface of the earth. The letters that were scribbled in that horror and later found on the bodies of the disaster victims reflected the minds of men who were about to die. Their thoughts were serious, without malice, and full of concern for the loved ones they were leaving behind—those they commended to the goodness of God. Many of these letters have been published by F. P. Buck in his book, "The Cherry Mine Disaster."

At eight o'clock on the evening of the disaster, the mine was sealed in order to smother the flames. Feeling ran high over this procedure as it appeared that the men who remained in the mine were doomed. Stories were circulated to the effect that the mine officials, thinking only in terms of saving the mine, were sacrificing the lives of the miners. Many extra marshalls were deputized by the mayor, Charles Connolly, to help keep order in a town that was swollen by hordes of people who flocked into it from surrounding communities. All saloons were closed. Relief agencies gathered on the scene immediately to alleviate the suffering of the widows and orphans. The Red Cross, Knights of Pythias, and the Catholic and Protestant churches organized relief committees; social workers from Chicago gave their assistance. The Chicago Tribune sent special nurses, and the Catholic Church brought in Sisters to work among the bereaved. The local barber, John Stenstrom, provided meals free of charge in the Congregational Church basement.

By Sunday morning, R. Y. Williams and his assistant, Mr. Webb, arrived from the government life-saving station at Urbana with helmets and other special rescue equipment. Soon their efforts were augmented by the help of professional rescue workers from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and from the states of Ohio, Iowa, and Missouri. During the day the two men succeeded in reaching the second vein through the air shaft. They descended in a special sinking bucket but could do nothing as the smoke and steam

Widows and fatherless children, as suggested by the scene above, were to witness the grim reality of their lot when, on March 4, 1910, sixty-one victims were recovered from the mine and placed in the tent at right where the difficult task of identification took place.

were too dense for exploration. The shaft was covered again and remained so during the rest of the day and night. Another attempt was made the next day, but to no avail. Temperatures in the mine were too high.

In the meantim, the Ladd Fire Department under Jack Evans and some units of the Chicago Fire Department under Chief Fire Marshall Horan were rushed to the scene. The Chicago Fire Department brought with them five water tank cars each carrying 10,000 gallons of water. The firemen poured tons of water into the main shaft as soon as it was opened. On Thursday, November 18, the fire fighting began in earnest. The firemen descended the main shaft to fight the blaze directly. In the meantime the helmet group explored the bottom for bodies. By Saturday, November 20, the fire was seemingly under control.

Another phase of the rescue work must be mentioned here. It was no secret that the populace was very much dissatisfied with the rescue efforts directed by company officials. Serious threats had been made, and Sheriff Shoglund feared for the very lives of these men when he learned of a plot to blow up the sleeping cars which accommodated the officials. The sheriff notified Governor Deneen of the gravity of the situation, and the governor responded by sending the militia to help maintain order and to guard the area surrounding the mine. Cherry was not placed under martial law, however. Meanwhile, sensing the wrath of the anxious villagers, cagers Rosenjack and Dean left town as did engineer Raisbeck. It was later discovered that Dean had gone back to Scotland; the whereabouts of Rosenjack was never known. Cowley, the engineer, was placed under guard.

On Saturday, November 20, the world was amazed by the good news that twenty-one men had been found alive in the shaft. A rescue party consisting of David Powell, mine superintendent of the Braceville, Illinois, mine; Father Haney, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Mendota, Illinois; Father Wencel of St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois; Captain Kenney of the Chicago Fire Department, and three other firemen were searching for bodies when they encountered four miners who were making one last attempt to escape. The survivors told of other miners who were still back in the entry. In all, twenty-one men were rescued. One man died shortly after reaching the surface. Some of the survivors were unable to walk. Those rescued were George Eddy, Walter Waite, Thomas White, John Lorimer, Frank Waite, Thomas Brown, John Barnoski, John Semich, George Semich, George Stimez, Frank Zanarini, Q. Antenore, Daniel Holafcak, William Cleland, Fred Lauzi, Silvatore Pigatti, Joe Pigatti, Bonfiglio Ruggeri, Fred Prohaska, and Frank Prohaska. These men are now deceased.

Frank Zanarini, who had the distinction of being the last of the survivors, spoke of his eight-day entombment as a living death. The writer recalls from a personal interview with Frank Zanarini on July 10, 1954, that while he and his companions were building a wall to protect themselves from the black damp and foul air, they felt as if they were putting nails in their own coffins. He described how the men obtained moisture from small holes made in the wall. A piece of cloth was wrapped around a stick and inserted in the wall to absorb the moisture; afterward the men would

suck on the cloth. Muddy water accumulated slowly in a larger hole dug in the floor of the entry. Each man in turn had access to this water. The survivors had nothing to eat; some chewed their hat bands and the tongues from their shoes to relieve the pangs of hunger. Some of the miners wrote notes to their loved ones; others prayed. Mr. Eddy bolstered the spirits of those who at times were on the verge of becoming hysterical. Zanarini related how, with every passing minute, the men were resigning themselves to their fate.

New hope began to surge in the hearts of all as Sheriff Skoglung in the background calls excitedly for doctors to be rushed to the scene after the first victims were rescued from their eight-day entombment: "They are alive!"

By Saturday, November 20, a decision had been reached among the strongest to make a break——win or lose! They figured they were going to die anyway. It was then that the rescue party came upon them.

But the real story of the twenty-one men is the story of George Eddy. He was the guiding light, and with the assistance of Walter Waite, provided the leadership necessary to keep the men together. Because he was night boss, Eddy was not at the mine when the fire started; but he had rushed to the mine upon hearing that it was on fire, descended with rescue workers, and helped many men to escape. Finally, cut off from escape himself, he started to retreat toward the back entries. As he went along, he met Mr. Waite and the nineteen other men, and led them back into an obscure entry. There the group barricaded themselves as had been explained. Eddy's story is vividly told in records of the inquest and in an interview which appeared in the Chicago Tribune.

James E. Williams offered to George Eddy a tribute which seems pertinent to any study of the Cherry mine disaster.

> "The name of George Eddy deserves to go down in history as one of its bravest heroes. He stayed down there to the last, helping others on the cage, when by a single step he might have got on himself and been hoisted out of danger. The supreme value of a catastrophe like this is in showing how plentiful is the raw material out of which heroes are made. Given a sufficiently commanding motive, the men who will lay down their lives are more numerous than they who will run away. Against the one man who failed by running away from his post as cager at the lower level when panic stricken and leaving the men below to perish, there were scores who stood nobly to their tasks and risked or lost their lives for their fellows."

No more miners were found alive. The next few days were spent in the search for more bodies and in the difficult task of identification. Then the fire broke out again, and it was decided on the morning of November 25 to reseal the mine until February 1, 1910. Many bodies were known to be in the third vein, but a large accumulation of water prevented their removal in view of the fact that the fire was again gaining momentum.

Huge trenches had to be dug to provide burial for the scores of victims that were laid to rest in the plot which was to become Cherry's Memorial Cemetery.

After February 1, the mine was reopened and the remaining bodies were removed. The St. Paul Coal Company had donatd a five acre plot at the south edge of town for a cemetery, and many of the victims were buried there. Others were buried at Ladd, Illinois.

The two Sisters pictured above were among those who came from St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley, Illinois to give aid and consolation to the bereaved. Among them was Mother Anthony who is still living today.

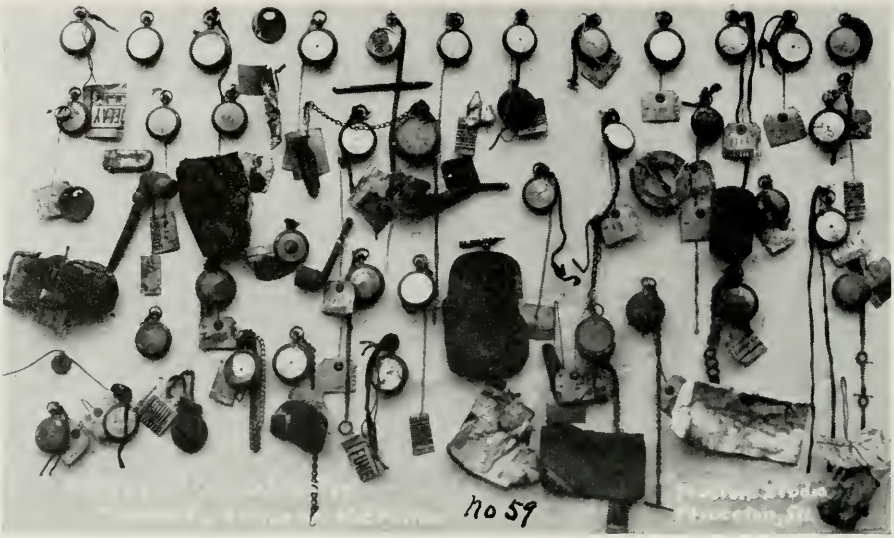
A final report on the number of dead was made by Thomas Hudson, State Mine Inspector, on August 16, 1910, as follows:

Total number believed to be lost	268
Total number of bodies recovered from second vein	187
Total number of bodies recovered from third vein	51
Lost, by burning, on the cage	12
Thought to be lost but later found alive and working in other mines	11
Still missing	6

The public's response to the needs of the victims was tremendous. There were 160 widows and 390 children to be cared for. In all, 607 persons had been dependent upon the men who were killed in the mine. Nearly every city and village in Illinois contributed in some way to their relief; the United Mine Workers, the Chicago Tribune. the Red Cross, and a variety of other organizations arrived early on the scene of the disaster, and soon the village was the recipient of the generosity of thousands. By November 28 the Chicago Tribune and Red Cross relief funds had reached $70,000. It was estimated that the total amount of the contributions was $444,785.92. To this was added another $400,000 paid out by the St. Paul Coal Company in settlements, making a total of $844,785.92. The sum of $3,261.72 was paid to the family of each person killed in the disaster.

The Cherry Relief Commission, organized to distribute relief funds, was staffed by the following persons:

Fred J. Kern, Chairman
Board of Administration — Springfield, Illinois
J. E. Williams, Vice-Chairman
Streator Relief Commission — Streator, Illinois



Personal effects found on the victims of the disaster, —and in many cases the sole evidence as to the identity of a loved one.

Duncan McDonald, Secretary
United Mine Workers of Illinois — Springfield, Illinois
Edward T. Bent
Illinois Coal Operators Association — Chicago, Illinois
Ernest P. Bicknell
American Red Cross — Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

James Mullenbach, Superintendent	Chicago, Illinois
Miss B. G. Davis, Executive Secretary	Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. L. J. Collar, Visitor	Chicago, Illinois
The Northern Trust Company, Agent	Chicago, Illinois

The plan was roughly as follows. An amount of money, determined by the number of dependents, was paid in a lump sum to a widow who was a lone survivor and to a family which planned to return to Italy. (The Italian Government was willing to provide transportation for any Italian widow and her children who wished to go back to their native land). The widow with children who remained here was paid on the pension plan, in amounts determined by the number of children. A widow with one child under the age of 14 years got a pension of $25 per month until the child was 14 years of age or until the widow should marry a second time or otherwise become self-supporting. A widow with two children under 14 years got $30, and for each additional child $5 more per month until the maximum of $40 per month was reached. A widow with more than four children under the age of 14 did not get more than $40.

A widow without children or with children over the age of 14 years was awarded a cash settlement determined by conditions peculiar to the family, such as their ability to support themselves. The amount was usually

about $300. The average age of the children left was five and two-thirds years, and it was estimated that the fund on hand would support the dependents for at least eight years or until the children were able to work. Food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies sent from all parts of the country were rapidly dispensed by the members of the charitable institutions at the scene of the disaster. The monetary value of such generosity could not be estimated. The total amount of money allocated for relief purposes was made available through the following sources:

At the disposal of Cherry Relief Commission, including $100,000 appropriated by the State legislature	$256,215.72
Contributions of employees of the St. Paul Coal Co.	55,742.40
Death benefits paid by United Mine Workers of Illinois	40,000.00
Expended by Local Relief Committee of Cherry	33,968.91
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad	10,964.29
Matthiessen and Hegler Zink Company	10,000.00
Congregational Church	10,000.00
Knights of Pythias	7,500.00
His Excellency, Edmund Dunne, Bishop of Peoria	5,000.00
Coal Operators	5,000.00
Citizens of LaSalle	4,292.85
Slavish Newspapers	4,000.00
Citizens of Oglesby	2,101.75

Pictured at right is the huge tent which was improvised to search the victims for articles of identification, and to wrap them in canvas for burial.

The story of the disaster would not be quite complete without a few words about John E. Williams of Streator, Illinois, who was what may be accurately called "the self-appointed mediator". Mr. Williams was chairman of the Streator Relief Committee for the mine victims and also vice-chairman of the Cherry Relief Commission. As such, he made the acquaintance of Albert J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway, and John H. Walker and Duncan McDonald, officials of the mine workers' organization. Williams was instrumental in bringing the divergent groups together, and he presented a plan for the settlement between the Company

and victims of the disaster so that the Company would not file bankruptcy or be dragged through the courts by long litigation. The latter would have spelled the doom of the mining industry in Cherry.

At one time the officials of the Coal Company contemplated selling the property and turning over the entire proceeds to the victims' families on an equitable basis. Williams' foresight deprecated this plan, as it would have been made at a tremendous loss. He proposed a settlement based on the English "Workmen's Compensation Act," which was more liberal than any compensation plan in the United States at that time. The Company finally agreed to the settlement to the amount of $400,000, thus preventing long suits and maintaining the ownership of the mine. The amount was large enough to give about $1800 to every family whose breadwinner had been killed. This was a far cry from the State of Connecticut statutes of that period which provided an average of $50 to dependents of those killed in the industry. What is more, the village was assured an industry which lasted until 1927.

The impact of the disaster prompted the state legislature to enact measures for protecting miners from fire, for the increase of resources and facilities for the rescue of lives endangered in mine disasters, and for promoting the technical efficiency of all persons working in and about the mines in order to prevent accidents and to conserve the coal resources of the state. These measures were followed by the liability act which is the basis of the Illinois Workmen's Compensation Laws. The "fellow-servant" clause, which had legally exempted employers from liability for accidents due to the "contributory negligence" of fellow employees, was eliminated.

The St. Paul Coal Company reopened the Cherry mine in the latter part of 1910. At that time the Company abandoned the second vein and developed the third vein which it worked until 1927, when factors in the mining industry made the mine uneconomical to operate. What is more, the northern coal fields could no longer compete with the mechanized central and southern coal mines, and therefore one by one all the northern mines were closed.

Today, only the mine dump remains to mark the location of the once prosperous Cherry mine. The tipple has been removed, and the company acres have been sold and converted to farmland. The population of the village has dwindled to and stabilized itself at approximately 500 people. For the most part, those who seek employment find it in the surrounding communities——Spring Valley, LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, Mendota, Ladd, and Ottawa. The citizenry have long sensed the necessity for the esthetic in the community and have so improved the general appearance of the village that one who had not seen it since 1909 would find Cherry much different from the village it was at that time.

The people of Cherry have not forgotten those who lost their lives in the Cherry Mine Disaster. Each year, on November 13, the community arranges appropriate commemorative ceremonies and marches *en masse* to the Cherry Miners' Memorial Cemetery. There a wreath is placed on the monument which is dedicated to the memory of victims of the disaster, and which serves to remind travellers on highway 89 of the grim business of coal mining and the holocaust of 1909.

Victims Of The Disaster

Amider, Alfio; Agramanti, Foliani; Alexius, Joseph; Atalakis, Peter; Atlakis, G; Adakosky, M; Armelani, Chas; Armelani, Paul.
Burke, Joseph; Bauer, Milce; Brain, Oliver; Burslie, Clemento; Bolla, Antonio; Bastia, Mike; Brown, Thomas; Bolla, Peter; Bawman, Frank; Bawman, Lewis; Barozzi, Antone; Bruno, Edward; Bredenci, Peter; Budzon, Joseph; Boucher, Jerome; Bakalar, Geo; Bayliff, Thomas; Bernadini, Chas; Bosviel, Adolph; Budzom, Chas; Bertolioni, Tonzothe; Benossif, J; Butilla, August; Bordesona, J; Betot, John; Brown, John; Buckels, Richard; Bruzis, John; Bundy, John.
Costi, Angelo; Ciocci, Peter; Canov, Canivo; Cioci, Canical; Costi, Lewis; Camilli, Frank; Casserio, John; Castoinelo, Chelsto; Cagoskey, John; Chebuhar, Joseph; Casollari, Elizio; Conlon, Henry; Cohard, Henry; Cipola, Mike; Clark, Robt; Carlo, Elfi; Casolari, Diminick; Cavaglini, Chas; Compasso, John.
Denalfi, Francisco; Durand, Ben; Dunko, John; Durdan, Andrew; Davies, Jno. G; Donaldson, John; Dovin, Geo; Demesey, Fred; Dumont, Leopold; Detourney, V;
Elario, Miestre; Elko, George; Eloses, Peter; Erikson, Chas; Erickson, Eric.
Farlo, John; Fayen, Peter; Forgach, John; Formento, Dominick; Freeberg, Ole; Franciscio, August; Francisco, John; Flood, John.
Governer, Jno; Grehaski, Andrew; Gugleim, Peter; Galletti, J; Galletti, Jno; Gialcolzza, Angone; Garabelda, Jno; Gulick, Joseph; Gwaltyeri, Jalindy; Geckse, Frank; Grumeth, Frank; Gibbs, Lewis; Guidarini, Jno.
Halko, Mike; Hadovski, Steve; Howard, Samuel; Hudar, Jno; Hynds, William; Hertzel, Jno; Holofcak, Dan: (Rescued Nov. 20; died 48 hours after); Harpka, Jos. Hainant, August; Howard, Alfred.
James, Frank; Janavizza, Joe; Jamison, James.
Klemiar, Thomas; Kranz, Jno; Kussner, Julius; Klaeser, Jno; Klemiar, Richard; Kometz, John; Krall, Alfred; Krall, Henry; Kroll, Alex S; Kenig, John; Klemiar, Geo; Korvonia, Joseph; Kovocivio, Frank; Korvonia, Antone; Kutz, Paul; Kliklunas, Dominic.
Love, James; Leyshon, Chas; Lukatchko, Andrew; Leptack, John; Lonzotti, John; Love, Morrison; Love, John; Love, David; Leynaud, Urban; Lonzetti, Seicomo; Lallie, Frank; Lurnas, Mike; Leadache, Joseph; Leadache, Frank; Lewis, Isaac; Leadache, James.
Mumetich, Hasan; Miller or Malner, Lewis; Miller or Malner, Joe; Miller, Edw; Mokos, Joseph; Meicora, Joseph; Monahan, James R; Mills, Edw; Mekles, Tony; Merdior, Arthur; Marchiona, Frank; Marchiona, Archie; Maceoha, Jno; Mills, A; Mittle, Jno; Mayelemis, Frank; Masenetta, Anton; Malinoski, Joe; McCandless, Robert; McGill, Jno. Jr; McCrudden, Jno; McCrudden, Peter; McMullen, Geo; Mazenetto, Jno; Mani, Joseph; Mayersky, Jno; McLuckie, Andrew; McFadden, Andrew; Mazak, Jno; Matear (or Mactear), Wm.
Norberg, August; Norberg, Alex.
Ossek, Donaty; Ossek, Martin; Ondurko, Matt; Olson, Chas. P.
Palmiori, Albert; Prusitus, Perys; Prusitus, Pete; Pavoloski, Jno; Pressenger, Joe; Prich, Joseph; Pearson, Alex; Perono, Dominik; Papea, Chas; Pearson, John; Perbacher, Peter; Packo, Andrew; Pete, Ben; Pshak, John; Pauline, Antona.
Repsel, Martin; Repsel, Joe; Rodonis, Joe; Rolland, Victor; Rittel, Frank; Richards, Thos; Ricca, Cegu; Riva, Joe; Raviso, Joe; Ruggesie, Gailamyo; Rossman, Robt; Ruygiesi, Frank; Rimkus, Joseph; Robeza, Joseph; Sopko, Cantina.
Speir, James; Stettler, Harry; Sandeen, Olaf; Sleitz, Paul; Shermel, Antone; Stark, John; Stanchez, Frank; Stefenelli, Dominik; Sarginto, August; Siamon, Andrew; Semboa (or Sereba),J; Smith, John W; Sublich, Chas; Suhe, John; Suhe, Mike; Suffen, John; Sukitus, Joe; Steele, Peter; Sarbelle, Julius; Stearns, James; Seitz, Edw; Scotland, Wm; Shima, Jno; Stewart, Harry; Stam, Antone; Szabrinski, Jno. (known as John Smith); Staszeski, Tony; Sestak, Jno.
Timko, Joseph Jr; Timko, Joseph Sr; Timko, Steve; Timko, Andr; Teszone, Geo; Talioli, Eugene; Tonnelli, Emilia; Turchi, Nocenti; Tosseth, Frank; Tamashanski, Joseph; Tamarri, Pasquale; Tonner, John.
Ugo, Filippe; White, Geo; Welkas, Anthony; Waite, Chas; Wyatt, Wm.
Yurcheck, Ant; Yacober, Frank; Yannis, Peter; Yagoginski, Frank; Yearley, Joe.
Zlieglev, Thos; Zekuia, Joseph; Zacherria, Giatano; Zeikell, Pat.

Tribute To The Pastor

Without any attempt at presumptuousness the author feels that the story of the Disaster would be incomplete without a word about the "Miners' Memorial Cemetery." For many years after the disaster, through neglect and indifference, the cemetery had degenerated into a veritable mass of weeds——an eyesore to visitors. Through the tireless efforts and hard work of Rev. Anthony Wehrmann, O.S.B., pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, it has been transformed into a beautiful Memorial Cemetery, of which our village can justly boast. It stands as a fine tribute to our pastor, Father Anthony, who accepted the challenge against great odds to restore to the dead victims a respectable resting place, a beautiful God's Acre.

"TO THE MEMORY OF THE MINERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CHERRY MINE DISASTER NOVEMBER 13, 1909."
"ERECTED BY THE U. M. W. OF A. DISTRICT NO. 12, ILLINOIS NOV. 13, 1911."

Acknowledgments

This brief outline of the Cherry Mine Disaster was compiled from the best available written sources. The author accepts sole responsibility for any errors of commission or omission.

— *Anton Demichelis*

The pictures contained in the body of this booklet are actual scenes taken at the time of the disaster, and have been submitted through the courtesy of Mr. Burton Waite, the honorable Mayor of Cherry, and Mrs. Bertha Keutzer.

The pictures for the present day monuments were supplied by Mr. Ray Broviak of Peru, Illinois.

Sincere thanks are due to Father Anthony Wehrmann, O.S.B., and Mr. William Parisi for their unselfish efforts and hard work in guiding the arrangements for the entire Commemorative program.

Additional copies of this booklet may be obtained by writing to:

Rev. Pastor
Holy Trinity Parish
Cherry, Illinois

The St. Bede Abbey Press — Peru, Illinois

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